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WARNING: ATTN CIRM

SERIAL: BR3001143195

COUNTRY: RWANDA

SUBJ: DESCRIPTION OF GATSINZI'S ROLE, POSTS SINCE APR 1994

REF: EA25012132395 KIGALI RADIO RWANDA FRENCH 251000 -- FORMER
GOVERNMENT ARMY OFFICER APPOINTED GENDARMERIE CHIEFSOURCE: BRUSSELS LA LIBRE BELGIE IN FRENCH 27 JAN 95 P 5
TEXT:// (REPORT BY MARIE-FRANCE CRDS: "NEW ARMY ACCEPTS HABYARIMANA'S
TROOPS")

((FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT)) IT IS "AN IMPORTANT STAGE ON THE ROAD TO
RECONCILIATION," BELIEVES PRIME MINISTER FAUSTIN TSHAGIRUMUNGU. ON
WEDNESDAY, A CEREMONY BROADCAST BY RADIO MARKED THE INCLUSION IN THE
NEW RWANDAN ARMY OF ALL SOLDIERS FROM PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S
FORMER FORCE AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE OF THEM, COLONEL GATSINZI,
AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF.

MODERATE ((SUBHEAD))

COLONEL MARCEL GATSINZI WAS KNOWN AS A POLITICALLY MODERATE
OFFICER AT THE TIME OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA'S DEATH ON 6 APRIL
1994. SUBSEQUENTLY, AT A TIME WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD HAD BEGUN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 03 NOV 2008 200103014

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MASSACRING OPPOSITION HUTUS AND ALL THE TUTSIS, COLONEL GATSINZI WAS

PROMOTED TO GENERAL AND APPOINTED CHIEF OF STAFF, UNDER THE
AUTHORITY OF THE DE FACTO GOVERNMENT INSTALLED IN OFFICE BY THE
MILITARY. BUT HE ONLY REMAINED 10 DAYS IN THE POST.

THE REASON WAS NO DOUBT HIS REPUTATION AS A MODERATE AMB HIS
REGIONAL BRIGINS. HE COMES FROM KIGALI IN THE CENTER-SOUTH OF THE
COUNTRY, WHICH DENIED HIM THE CONFIDENCE OF THE NORTHERN EXTREMISTS
OF HABYARIMANA'S ENTOURAGE. ALSO, SHORTLY AFTER BEING APPOINTED
GENERAL, HE APPARENTLY DREW UP A REPORT EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES
FOR A SOLUTION IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT
(RPF) WHICH WENT ON THE MILITARY OFFENSIVE WHEN THE MASSACRES
BEGAN.

HARDENING ((SUBHEAD))

WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT ON 17 APRIL, MARCEL GATSINZI WAS
SIDE-LINED. IN THE MIDST OF THE WAR, THIS GENERAL WAS APPOINTED
DIRECTOR OF A SCHOOL FOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE SOUTH OF
THE COUNTRY. HE WAS REPLACED AS CHIEF OF STAFF BY COLONEL AUGUSTIN
BIZIMUNGU, A NORTHERN "HAKU" PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL FOR THE
"BCCASTON." COLONEL BIZIMUNGU GOVERNED THE MILITARY REGION OF
RUHengeri AT THE TIME OF THE MASSACRE OF THE BABYGWES TUTSI PASTORS,
IN EARLY 1994, IN WHICH THE RWANDAN ARMY WAS INVOLVED.

THIS HARDENING WAS GENERALLY APPARENT. THE SAME DAY, THEODORE
SINBINUGWABO, THE DE FACTO "PRESIDENT" WHO WAS NOT RECOGNIZED BY
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, RETURNED TO HIS REGION OF ORIGIN -- THE
SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY WHICH HAD SO FAR BEEN SPARED OF THE WAR AND THE
MASSACRES -- TO LAUNCH THE GENOCIDE. RWANDA THEN BECAME AN IMMENSE
SLAUGHTERHOUSE. THERE WAS NO QUESTION HERE OF ONE GROUP FIGHTING
AGAINST ANOTHER. THE UNARMED VICTIMS HAD NO CHANCE OF ESCAPE.

NEGOTIATIONS ((SUBHEAD))

THE RPF WAS ABLE TO GET TO KNOW GENERAL GATSINZI WHEN, IN THE
COURSE OF THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, HE WAS CHARGED WITH NEGOTIATING WITH
THE GUERRILLAS, UNDER THE AGIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THESE

NEGOTIATIONS FAILED AND HABYARIMANA'S ROUTED ARMY FLEW TO ZAIRE.

WHEN GATSINZI DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY LAST FALL WITH
OTHER OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS THEY WERE SENT TO MILITARY CAMPS FOR
TRAINING BY THE RPF WHICH REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE NAME OF GENERAL
BESTOWED UPON GATSINZI BY THE (ILLEGAL) AUTHORITIES OF THE GENOCIDE.
THIS TRAINING IS NOW COMPLETE, BUT NOT WITHOUT HAVING CAUSED SOME
CONCERN AMONG THE RPF'S GOVERNMENT PARTNERS WHO HAD RECEIVED NO NEWS
OF THESE SOLDIERS.

IT WAS ALSO LEARNED DURING WEDNESDAY'S CEREMONY THAT ANOTHER
OFFICER FROM HABYARIMANA'S FORMER FORCE, COLONEL DEGRATIAS
NDIBWAMI, WAS BEING APPOINTED CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GENDARMERIE. HE
IS SECONDED BY AN OFFICER FROM THE RPF, COLONEL KAYUMBA NYAMAWASA.
COLONEL GATSINZI HIMSELF SECONDS AN OFFICER OF THE RPF, COLONEL SAM
NAMA. THIS "CROSSED" DISTRIBUTION OF POSTS WAS PROVIDED FOR IN THE
ARUSHA ACCORDS SIGNED BETWEEN THE HABYARIMANA REGIME AND THE RPF
BEFORE THE GENOCIDE. THE DECISIONS ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK ARE
THEREFORE UNDOUBTEDLY A MOVE TOWARD RECONCILIATION.

JUST UNDER A THOUSAND OTHER SOLDIERS OF HABYARIMANA'S FORMER
FORCE ARE AT PRESENT BEING TRAINED FOR INTEGRATION INTO THE NEW
RWANDAN ARMY, WHILE SOME 200 OF HABYARIMANA'S SOLDIERS HAVE
"RECENTLY" LEFT ZAIRE TO RETURN TO RWANDA, ACCORDING TO KIGALI, AND
HAVE ALSO JUST BEGUN THE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR INTEGRATION INTO THE
NEW ARMY. THERE ARE SOME 30,000 REFUGEE RWANDAN SOLDIERS IN ZAIRE.

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